

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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FROM: Buenos Aires

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 1173, October 24, 4 p.m.

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The Foreign Minister asked me to call this morning. I had previously sent him text and Spanish translation of President's proclamation set out DEPCIRTEL 730. He was better informed than we on most recent attitudes in US and described effort of Afro-Asian bloc to pull Latin American delegations away from support of US. Possibly Department or USUN might be able to give us more rapid information on what is going on at UN as well as COAS. We also would like to know what response other Latin American Governments have given to request for military participation.

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Main purpose of Muniz was to say that he had sacred agreement of Guido, Minister of Defense Martinez, and three service Secretaries that all contact between GOA and USG with respect to Argentine participation in Cuba quarantine should be handled exclusively between himself and myself. Specifically, Muniz did not wish our service Attaches to discuss with Argentine opposite numbers details of Argentine participation joint COAS effort.

Comment: My impression is that following Air Force communique cited EMBTEL 1170 Muniz and Martinez, as civilian Ministers, are anxious that GOA speak with one voice in present crisis and are fearful lest armed services through direct contact with our own three services in Washington make arrangements without knowledge of civilian government. Since one of our purposes is to get military here under civilian control, I immediately

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-2- 1173, October 24, 4 p.m. from Buenos Aires

(immediately said I would be glad to follow procedure outlined and am so instructing service Attaches and military Missions.] It would be helpful if Department would pass this message to DOD [and point out that this is an official request of Argentine Government that contact on Cuban operation be at level of Foreign Minister and US Ambassador.]

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